और उन्होंने वहां सरकारी तौर पर किन-किन अधिकारियों से मुलाकात की ; और

(ख) उनके साथ उनकी क्या-क्या बातचीत हुई थी ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) पिछले कुछ महीनों में रक्षा मंत्री सिंगापुर, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका और फ्रांस की सरकारी यात्रा पर गए थे । यात्रा के दौरान उन्होंने क्रमशः सिंगापुर के रक्षा मंत्री डा० यो निग हां, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के रक्षा सचिव, मि० डिक चिने, और फ्रांस के रक्षा मंत्री मि० पियरे जोक्स से तथा अन्य राजनीतिक नेताओं और उच्च स्तरीय अधिकारियों से भेंट की थी ।

(ख) इन भेंट वार्ताओं के दौरान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय और क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा संबंधी समस्याओं, भारत और उन देशों, जहां रक्षा मंत्री गए थे, के बीच रक्षा संबंधी वर्तमान सहयोग कार्यक्रमों और इस क्षेत्र में भावी सहयोग की सम्भावनाओं पर विचार-विमर्श हुआ ।

Defence Cooperation with Israel

1023. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Israeli defence delegation, recently, visited the country for the purpose of defence cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, what are the areas of defence cooperation for which talks were held; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The discussions between the two countries were exploratory in nature and no arrangement for cooperation has so far been finalised.

News Item Captioned "Hall Chopp rejected by Army, I.A.F."

1024. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Will the Minister of DEFENCE b pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the new item "HAL chopper rejected b Army, I. A. F." which appeared i the 'Indian Express' of Bombay edition on June 19, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Initially it was proposed to design & develop an Armed Light Helicopter, with single engine configuration. However, keeping in view the experience gained in actual conflicts by other Air Forces and the envolving Service requirements, it was decided to change over to a twin engine configuration, work on which commenced in 1984. The first prototype of the ALH has already rolled out on 29th June, 1992 and flight trials are due to commence shortly. The helicopter has multirole capacity and is acceptable to the Services.

Electronic Warfare

1025. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the importance of electronic warfare is likely to be established in the coming years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India is in danger of falling behind its neighbouring countries in electronic warfare; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR). (a) Yes,